

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00951 031705Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 /103 W
-----011834 040227Z /73

R 031701Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4474

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USUN NEW YORK 139
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 951

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM NS
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM DAY

1. SURINAM CELEBRATED THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY ON JULY 1 (FREEDOM DAY), AND ACTING MINISTER PRESIDENT VAN GENDEREN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE TRADITIONAL SPEECH MARKING THE OCCASION TO REAFFIRM SURINAM'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER ARRON (WHO IS NOW IN BRAZIL FOLLOWING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO CARACAS), VAN GENDEREN STRESSED THE THEMES OF UNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT TO HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND THEN LAUNCHED UPON A RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. VAN GENDEREN OBSERVED THAT SURINAM IS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY STILL IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD BUT ADDED THAT THIS WOULD "NEVER HINDER US FROM LETTING THE WORLD KNOW THAT WE ARE AGAINST OPPRESSION OF HUMAN BEINGS AND THEIR FREEDOMS. WE WILL SOUND THIS MESSAGE WHEREVER WE APPEAR." IN ORDER TO GIVE FORCE TO THIS CONVICTION, CONTINUED VAN GENDEREN, EVERYONE MUST WORK HARD TO GIVE SURINAM ECONOMIC STRENGTH. "ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BASIS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD WHICH WITH ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEE HOW THE POPULATION GROUPS ARE TRYING TO LIVE WITH AND NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN THIS FREE SURINAMESE NATION," CONCLUDED VAN GENDEREN.
OSTRANDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARAMA00951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780274-1057
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780799/aaaadvu.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eccf7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2127032
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM DAY
TAGS: SHUM, NS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eccf7c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014